

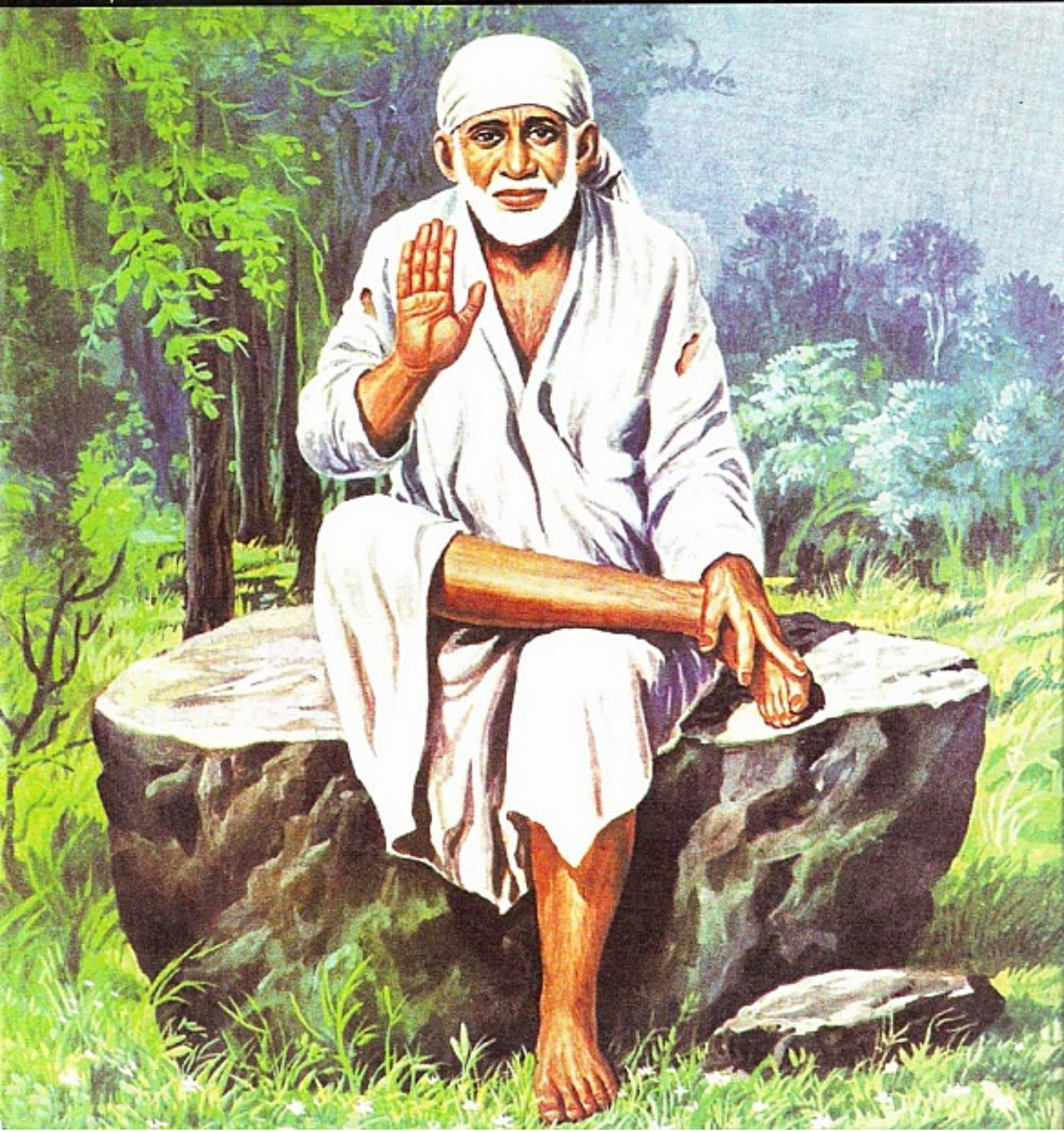


TALES OF SAI BABA

THE SAINT OF SHIRDI

Vol 601 | Rs 35

www.amarchitrakatha.com





The route to your roots

When they look back at their formative years, many Indians nostalgically recall the vital part Amar Chitra Katha picture books have played in their lives. It was **ACK – Amar Chitra Katha** – that first gave them a glimpse of their glorious heritage.

Since they were introduced in 1967, there are now **over 400 Amar Chitra Katha** titles to choose from. **Over 90 million copies** have been sold worldwide.

Now the Amar Chitra Katha titles are even more widely available in **500+ bookstores all across India**. Log on to www.ack-media.com to locate a bookstore near you. If you do not have access to a bookstore, you can buy all the titles through our online store www.theackshop.com. We provide quick delivery anywhere in the world.

To make it easy for you to locate the titles of your choice from our treasure trove of titles, the books are now arranged in five categories.

Epics and Mythology

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Indian Classics

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Fables and Humour

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

Bravehearts

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

Visionaries

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Script
Shobha Gangolli

Illustrations
C.M.Vitankar

Editor
Anant Pai

Cover illustration by: Ramesh Umrotkar

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1980, Reprinted August 2008, ISBN 81-8482-039-9
Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 14 Marthanda, 4th floor,
84 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Mumbai 400 018. India

BABA COMES TO SHIRDI



SUDDENLY HE HEARD A VOICE.

YOU LOOK TIRED.
COME HERE AND
REST A WHILE.

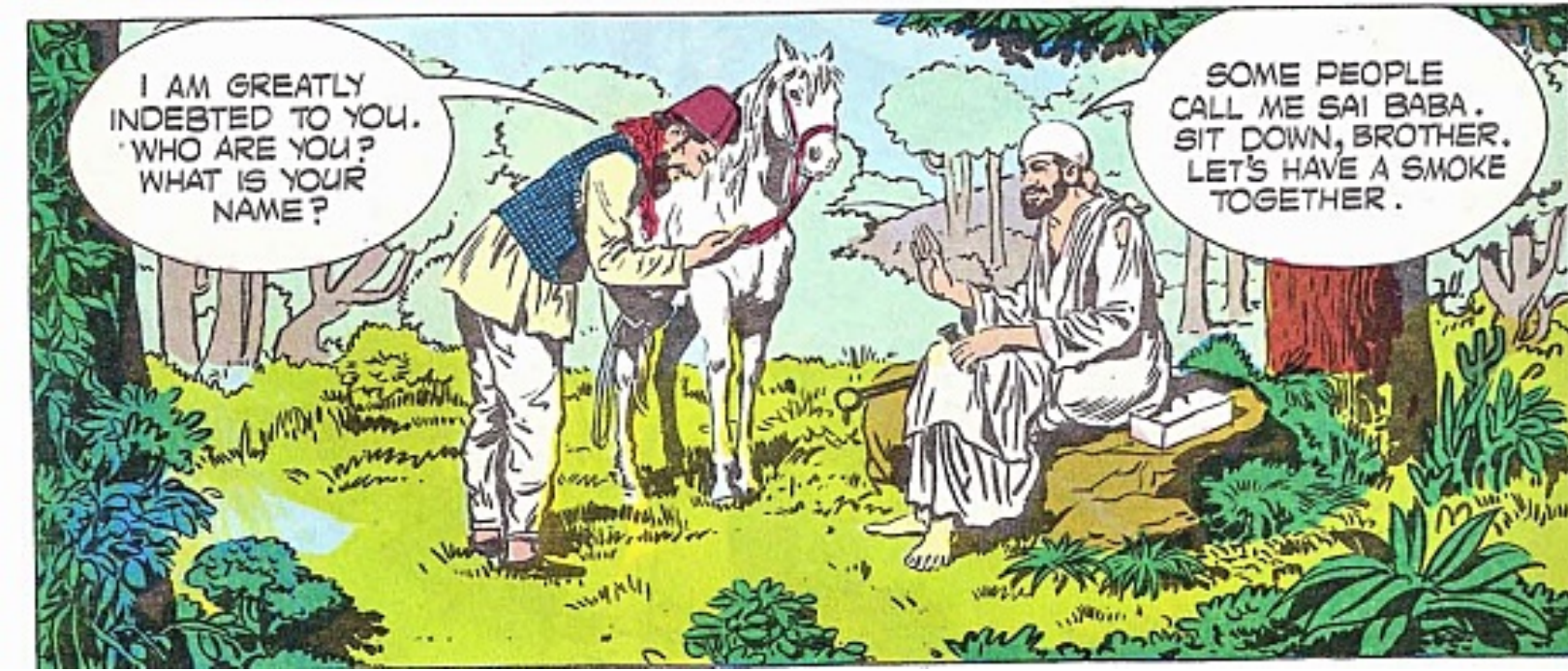
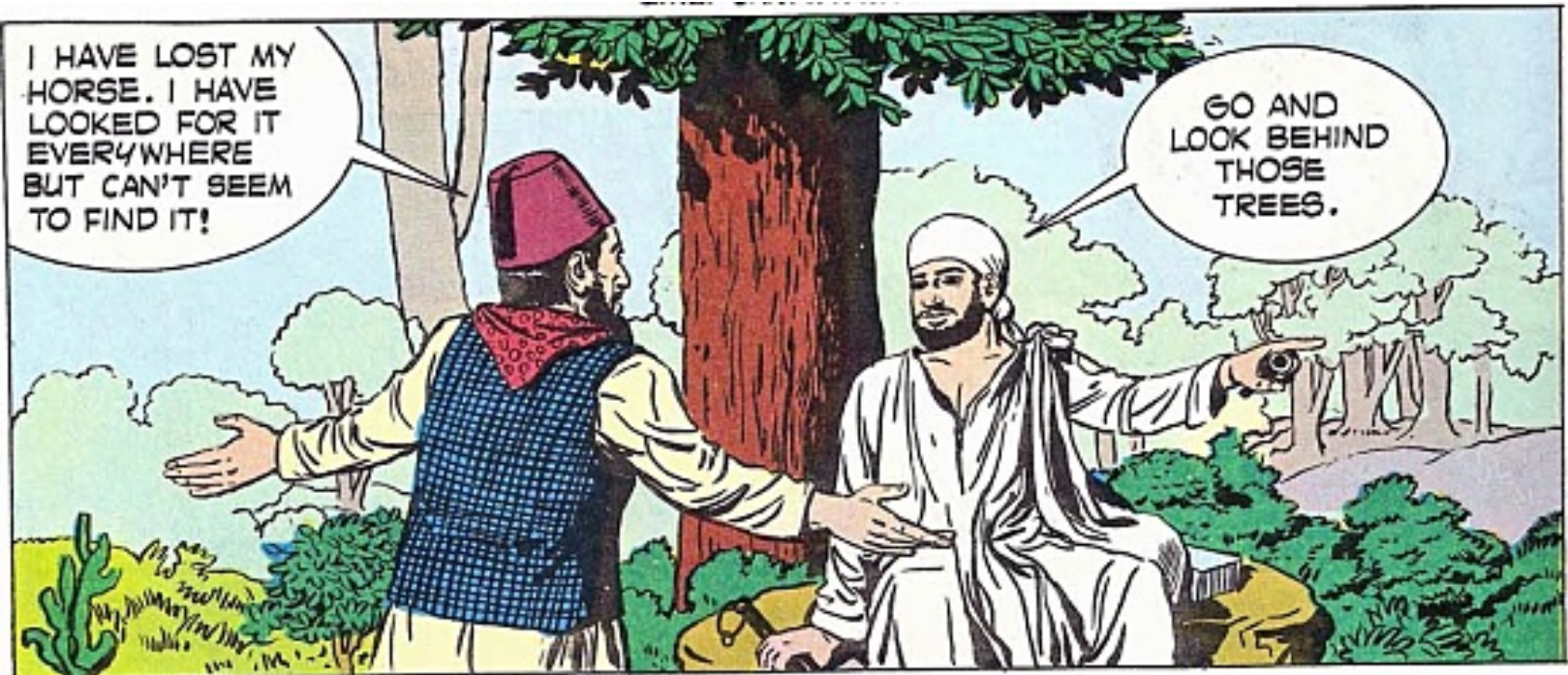


HE TURNED ROUND IN SURPRISE.

WHAT ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR IN
THIS JUNGLE,
CHANDBHAI?

WHO IS THIS YOUNG
FAKIR? HOW DOES
HE KNOW MY
NAME?





THE CHILLUM* WAS READY BUT THERE WAS NO FIRE TO LIGHT IT WITH. SAI BABA THRUST A PAIR OF TONGS INTO THE GROUND...



... AND BROUGHT OUT A BURNING COAL. CHANDBHAI WAS WONDERSTRUCK!



BABA, WON'T YOU COME HOME WITH ME AND BE MY GUEST FOR A FEW DAYS?



THANK YOU. I WILL COME TOMORROW.

THE FAKIR KEPT HIS WORD AND WENT TO CHANDBHAI'S HOUSE THE NEXT DAY.



YES, BABA, MY WIFE'S NEPHEW IS GETTING MARRIED.

THE BRIDE IS FROM SHIRDI
AND WE WILL ALL BE GOING
THERE IN A FEW DAYS. WILL
YOU COME WITH US?

YES,
I WOULD
LIKE TO.



AND A FEW DAYS LATER, HE WENT TO SHIRDI
ALONG WITH THE MARRIAGE PARTY.



AT SHIRDI, THEY CAMPED IN A FIELD NEXT TO KHANDOBA'S TEMPLE.



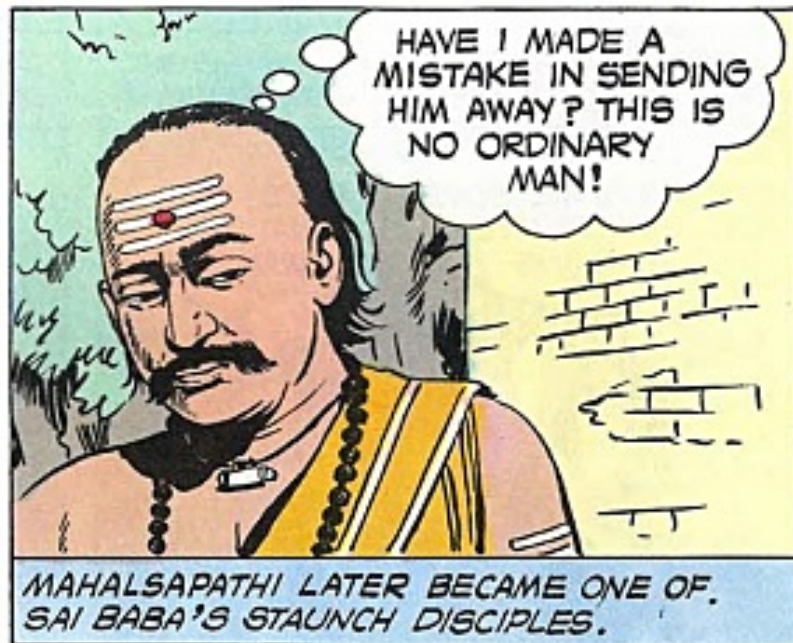
AFTER THE WEDDING, THE FAKIR STAYED ON AT SHIRDI. AT FIRST, HE LIVED UNDER A
NEEM TREE AND BEGGED FOR FOOD WHENEVER HE NEEDED IT.



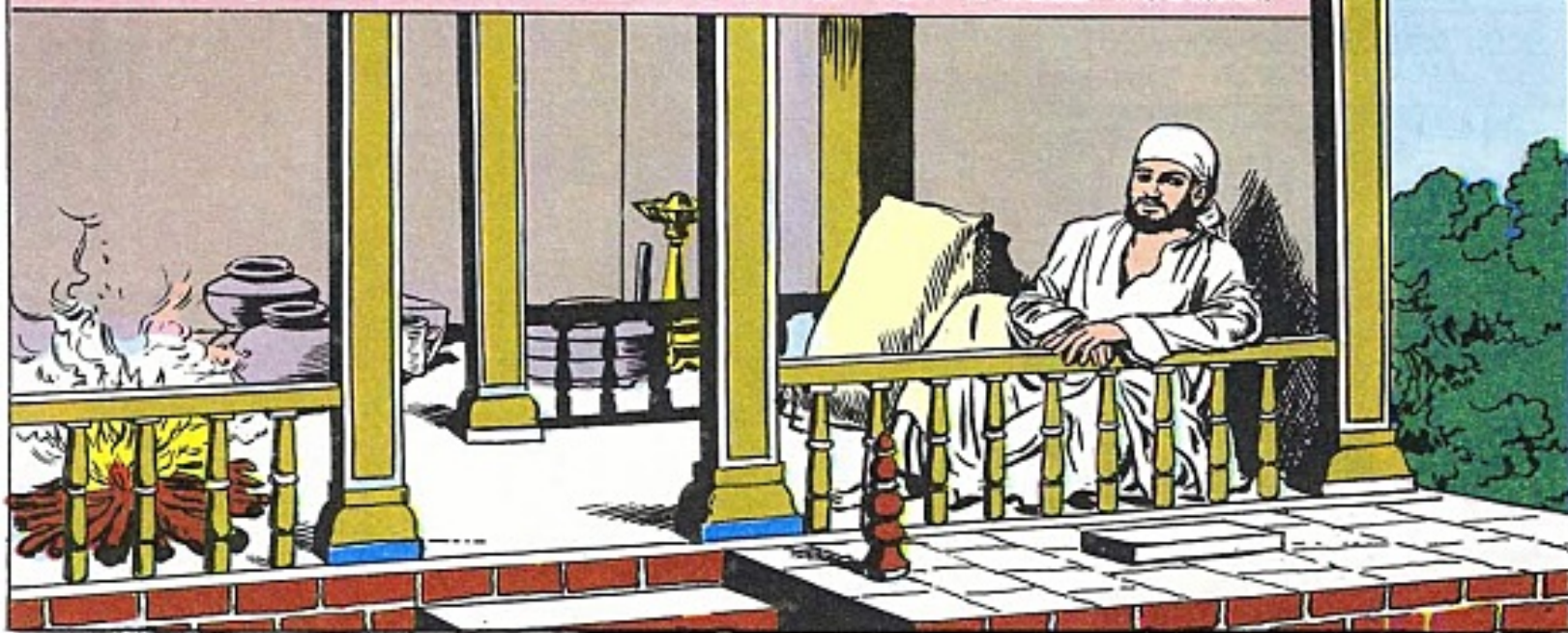
THEN HE WENT TO KHANDOBA'S TEMPLE, INTENDING TO LIVE THERE. BUT MAHALSA-PATHI, THE TEMPLE PRIEST, MET HIM AT THE ENTRANCE.

WERE YOU LOOKING FOR THE MOSQUE? YOU'VE MISSED IT. IT'S JUST ROUND THE CORNER.

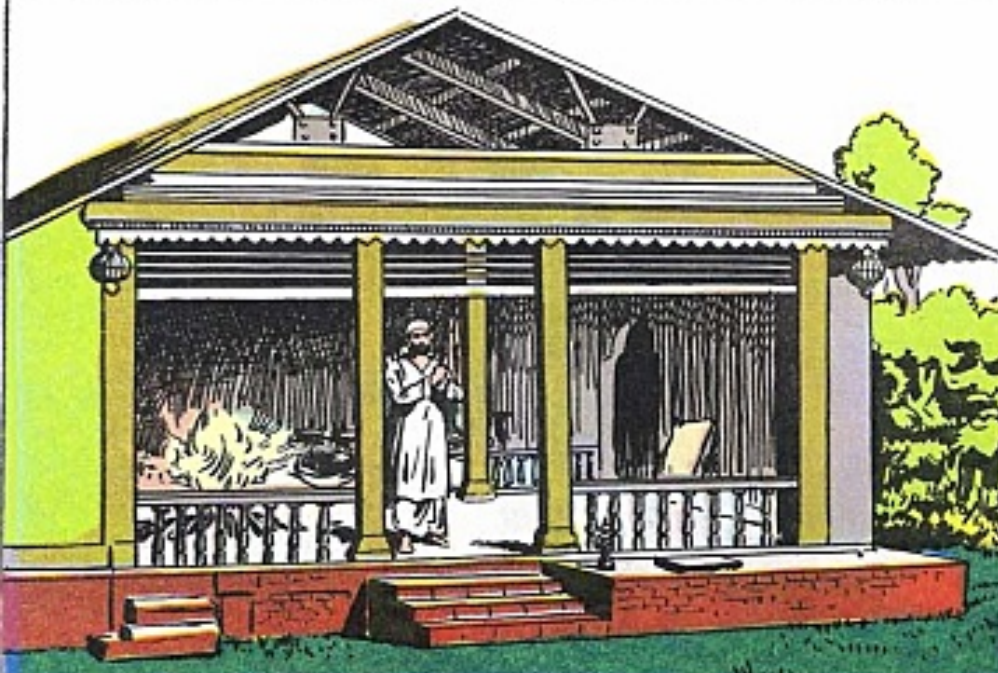
SO BE IT. I'LL GO THERE.



MEANWHILE, SAI BABA HAD FOUND THE LITTLE MUD-WALLED MOSQUE.



BABA AND THE OIL VENDORS



SAI BABA MADE THE MOSQUE HIS HOME. THERE HE KEPT A DHUNI* BURNING DAY AND NIGHT. THE MOSQUE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS DWARKAMAI.

HE SHARED THE FOOD WHICH HE HAD COLLECTED BY BEGGING, WITH POOR PEOPLE.



IT WAS ALSO HIS HABIT TO SHARE WHAT WAS LEFT OVER WITH STRAY CATS, DOGS AND BIRDS.



BABA USED TO GO ROUND THE MARKET PLACE.



AFTER EACH MERCHANT HAD RELUCTANTLY GIVEN HIM A LITTLE OIL...



... HE WOULD MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE.

PLEASE, LET
ME HAVE A
LITTLE OIL!

OH! IT'S THE FAKIR
AGAIN. HERE TAKE SOME
OIL AND GO!

AFTER COLLECTING THE OIL, BABA WOULD
RETURN TO HIS MOSQUE...

... AND LIGHT TINY LAMPS AT NIGHT.

ONE DAY—

HERE COMES
THE FAKIR
AGAIN!



POOR BABA! THAT DAY NOBODY GAVE HIM ANY OIL.



SILENTLY, SAI BABA WENT AWAY. THE MERCHANTS BECAME A LITTLE ANXIOUS.



AT THE MOSQUE —

POOR BABA! HE LOOKS SAD.

I WISH I HADN'T SENT HIM AWAY EMPTY-HANDED.



LOOK AT HIM FILLING THE LAMPS WITH WATER!

I TOLD YOU HE WAS MAD!



BABA WAS SMILING GENTLY AS ...



...ONE BY ONE, HE LIT THE LAMPS!



THEN BABA SPOKE TO THEM KINDLY.

REMEMBER THAT ALL OF US ARE CHILDREN OF THE SAME GOD, OUR CREATOR. IF YOU HELP THE POOR AND NEEDY, THEN GOD WILL SURELY BLESS YOU. SO, ALWAYS BE KIND TO OTHERS.



THE IMPORTANCE OF UDI



SLOWLY THE PEOPLE OF SHIRDI BEGAN TO RESPECT SAI BABA. WHEN SICK PEOPLE CAME TO HIM FOR HELP, HE CURED THEM WITH MEDICINES WHICH HE PREPARED FROM HERBS. SAI BABA TREATED EVERY ONE ALIKE. HE MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR. HE KNEW NO CASTE OR CREED. HE EVEN SERVED LEPERS.

AS THE YEARS WENT BY, THE CROWDS INCREASED. SAI BABA THEN STOPPED GIVING HERBAL MEDICINES. INSTEAD HE GAVE 'UDI', THE SACRED ASH, TO EVERY ONE. ONE NIGHT, SHAMA, A DEVOTEE OF BABA, CAME TO HIM WITH HIS YOUNGER BROTHER.



BABA, MY SISTER-IN-LAW IS VERY ILL. SHE IS SUFFERING FROM THE PLAGUE. PLEASE SAVE HER!

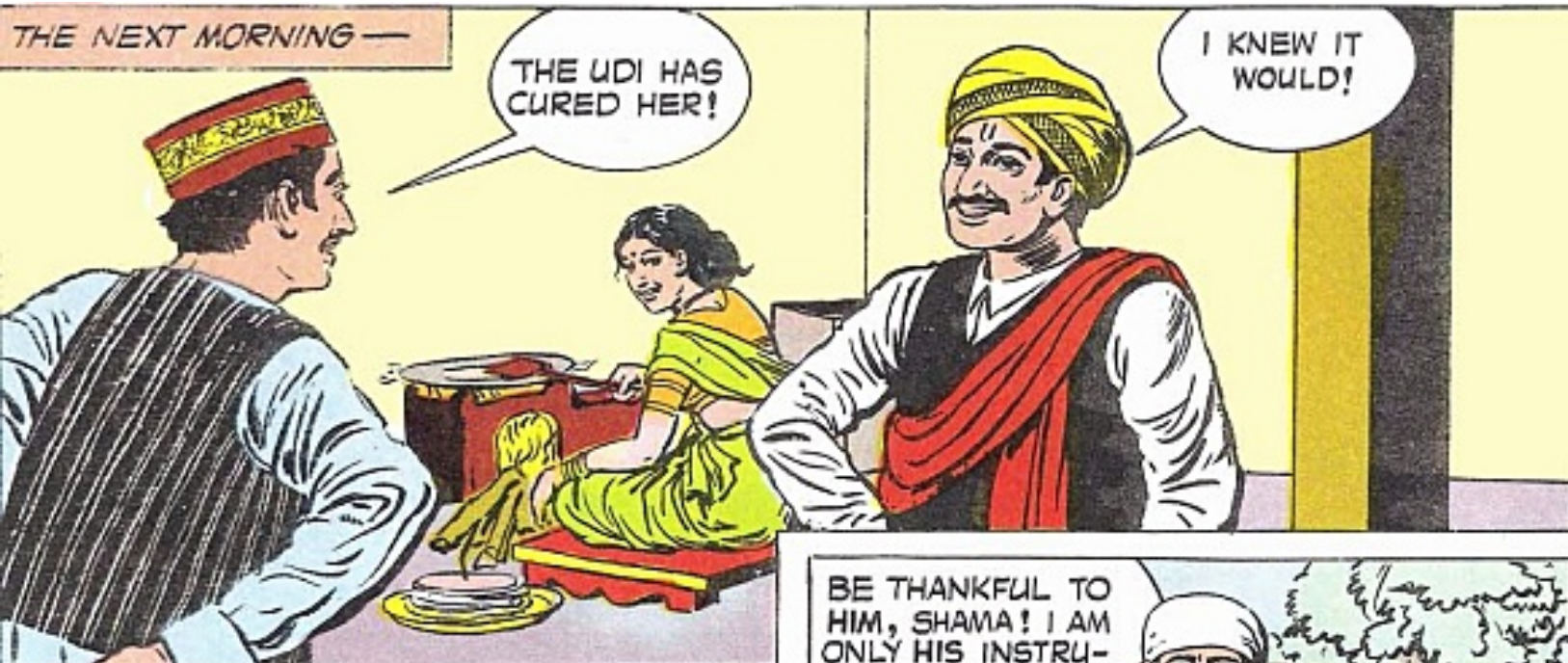
SHAMA, WHY ARE YOU SO ANXIOUS? BE CALM. SEND HER THIS UDI. SHE WILL BE WELL IN THE MORNING. THEN YOU CAN GO AND SEE HER.

SHAMA'S BROTHER WENT HOME WITH THE UDI.

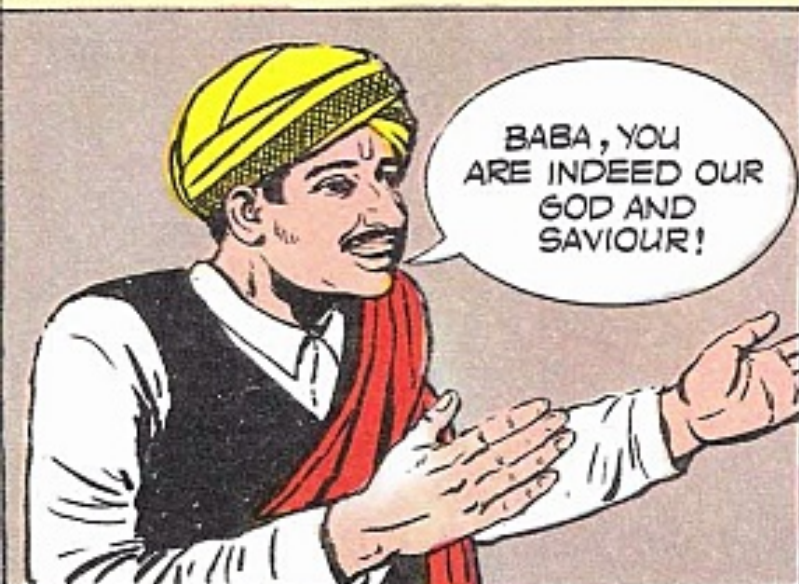


DRINK THIS. IT IS SAI BABA'S UDI WHICH I HAVE MIXED WITH WATER. I KNOW IT WILL HELP YOU.

THE NEXT MORNING —



SHAMA RUSHED BACK TO THE MOSQUE, HIS HEART OVERFLOWING WITH GRATITUDE.



AND THIS SACRED ASH CARRIES A GREAT MESSAGE, SHAMA! GOD IS ETERNAL AND THE ONLY REALITY. ALL ELSE THAT YOU SEE IN THIS UNIVERSE PERISHES. OUR BODIES WILL ONE DAY TURN INTO ASH. TRY TO UNDERSTAND THIS.



BE THANKFUL TO HIM, SHAMA! I AM ONLY HIS INSTRUMENT. HE IS THE SOLE DOER AND INSPIRER!



THE HUNGRY DOG

THAT POOR
DOG LOOKS
HUNGRY.



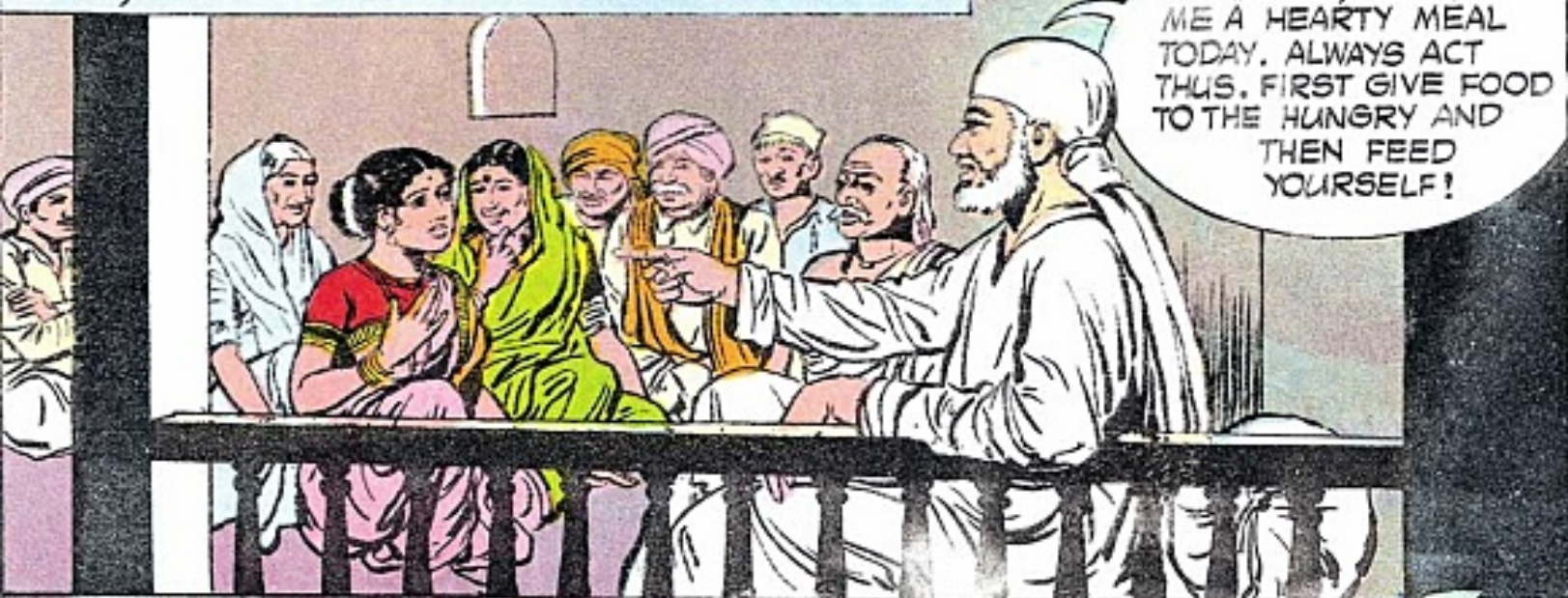
ONCE, MRS. TARKHAD, A LADY FROM BOMBAY,
HAD COME TO SHIRDI FOR A FEW DAYS.

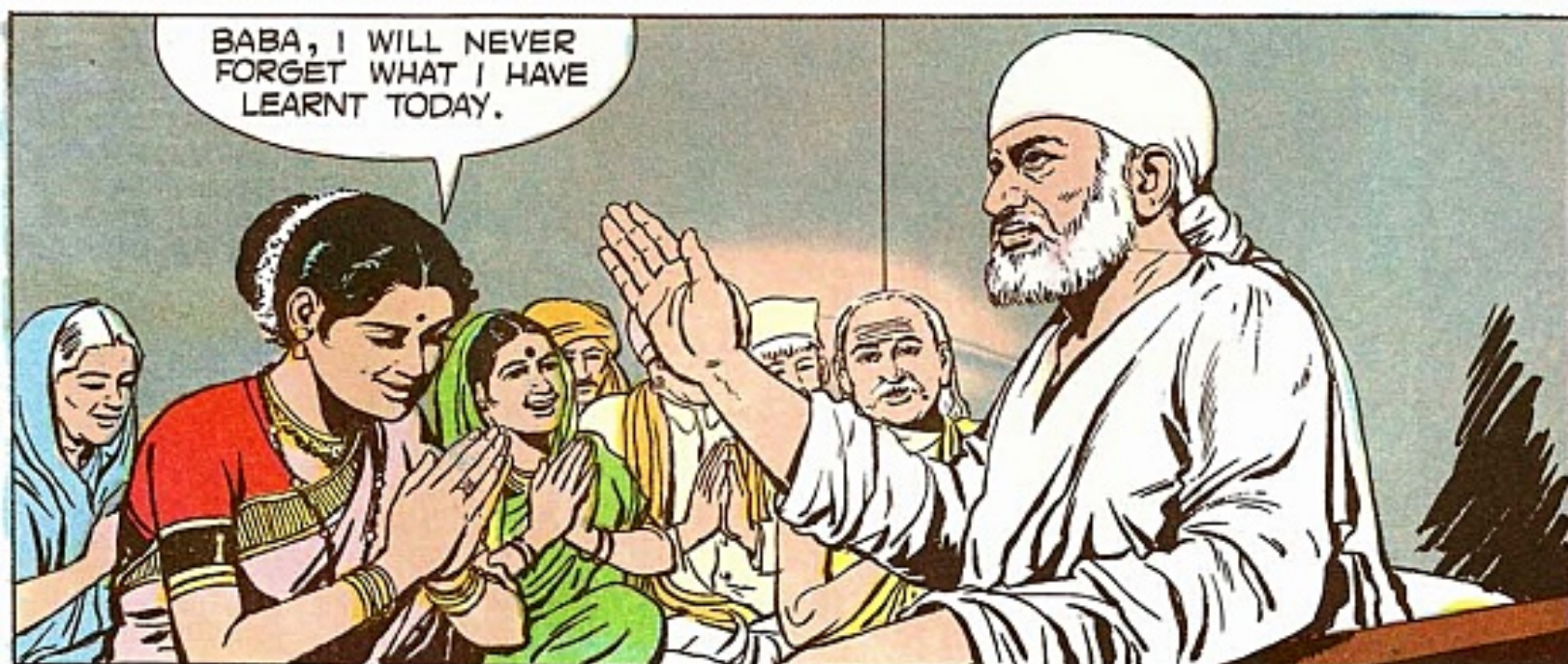
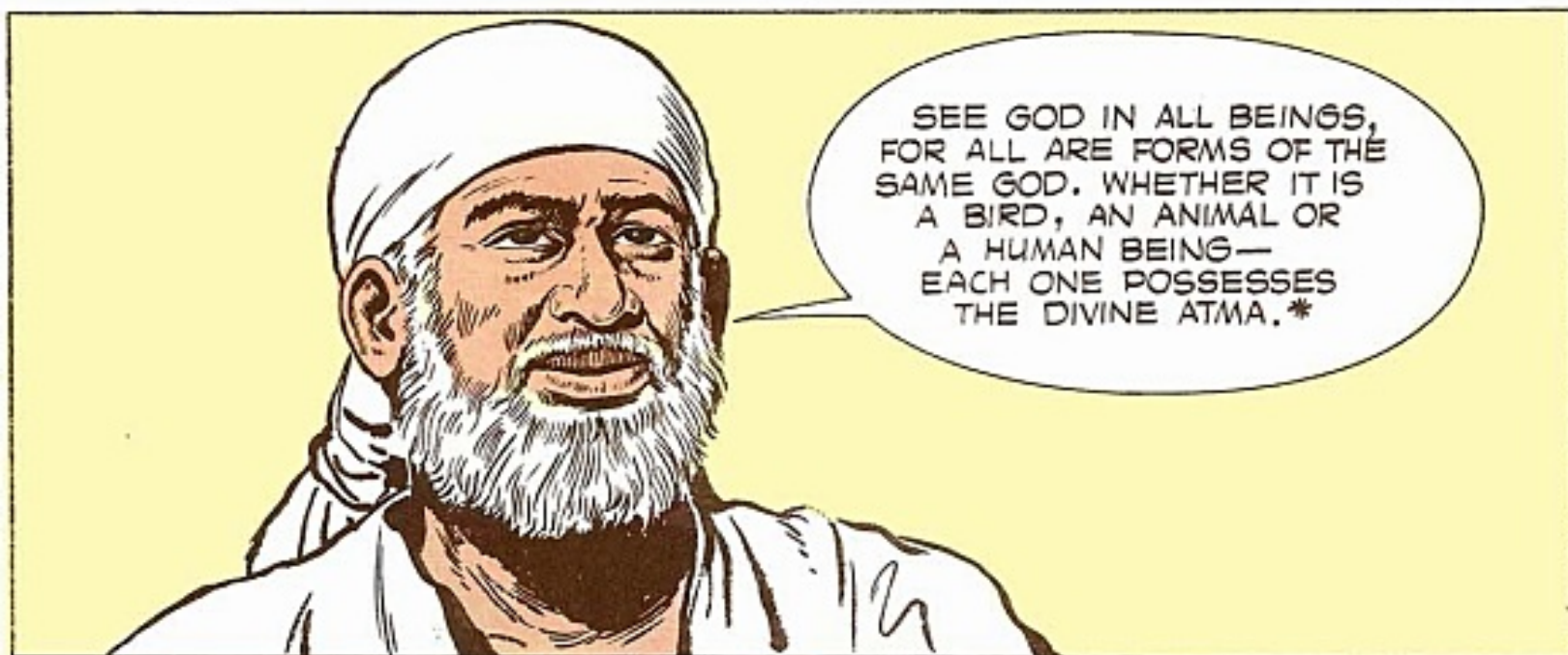
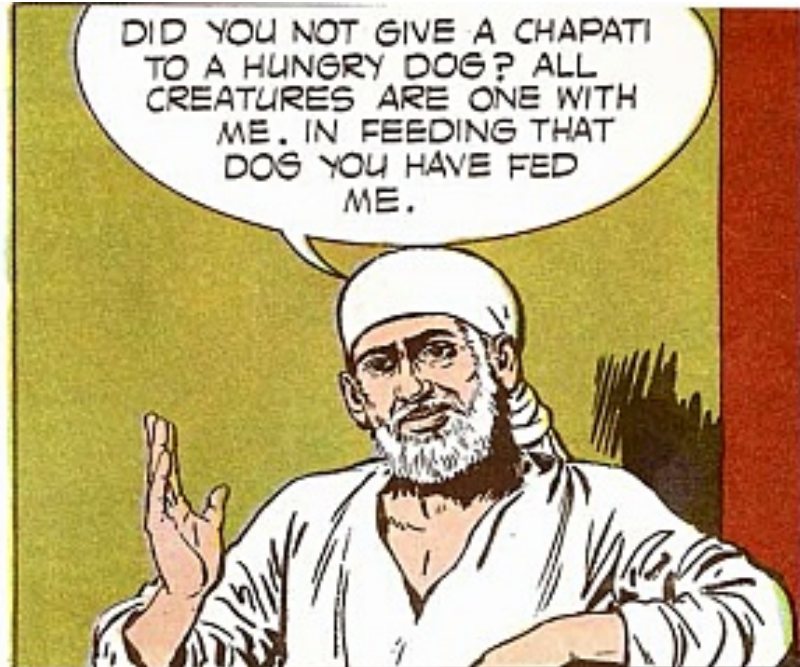
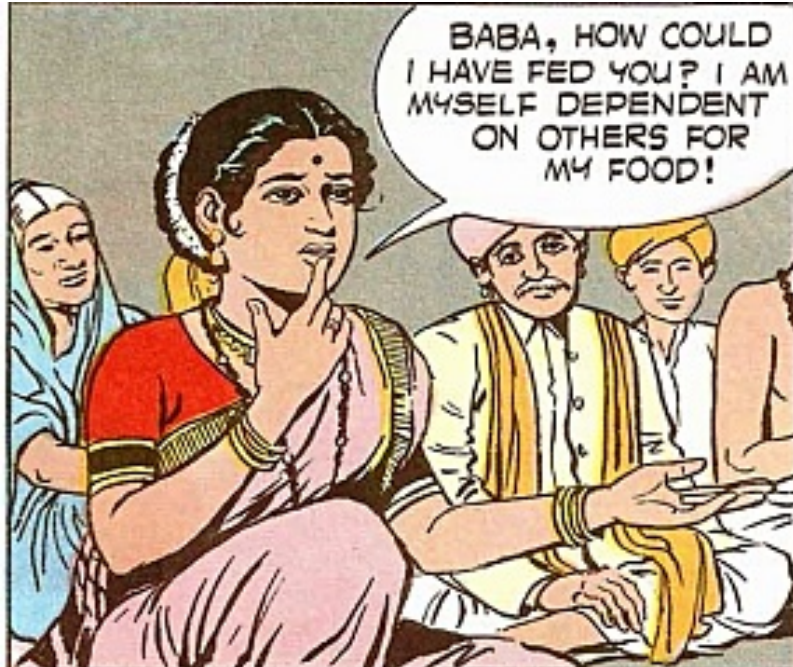
I WILL
GIVE IT A
CHAPATI.



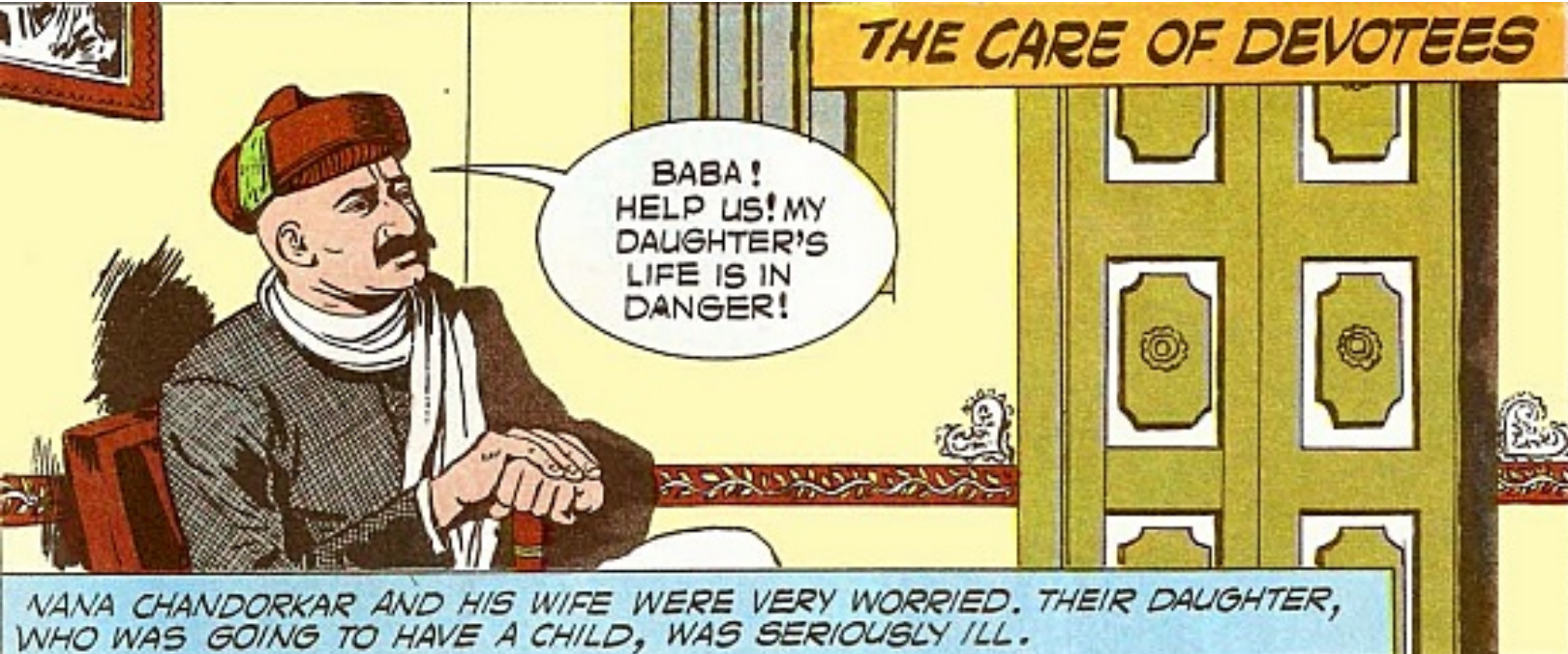
LATER, WHEN MRS TARKHAD WENT TO DWARKAMAI—

MOTHER, YOU GAVE
ME A HEARTY MEAL
TODAY. ALWAYS ACT
THUS. FIRST GIVE FOOD
TO THE HUNGRY AND
THEN FEED
YOURSELF!





THE CARE OF DEVOTEES



FAR AWAY AT SHIRDI, SAI BABA HEARD THEIR CRY FOR HELP.



AT THAT MOMENT, BAPUGIR BUVA, A DEVOTEE, WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE SHIRDI FOR HIS NATIVE VILLAGE IN KHANDESH.

BAPUGIR, DO ME A
FAVOUR. GIVE THIS
SACRED ASH TO NANA,
WHO LIVES AT
JAMNER.



DON'T WORRY,
EVERYTHING
WILL BE TAKEN
CARE OF!



BAPUGIR REACHED JALGAON SOON AFTER
MIDNIGHT.

YOU ARE BAPUGIR FROM
SHIRDI, AREN'T YOU?
NANASAHEB HAS
SENT A TONGA
FOR YOU.



BAPUGIR GOT INTO THE TONGA. THE
HORSE SPED LIKE THE WIND.



BY DAWN, THEY WERE AT
NANA'S HOUSE IN JAMNER.



BABA HAS SENT
THIS SACRED ASH
FOR YOU.



THANK GOD!
I AM NO LONGER
AFRAID!



NANA APPLIED THE ASH TO
HIS DAUGHTER'S FOREHEAD.



SOON AFTER, HER CHILD WAS BORN
SAFELY.



YOU CAME HERE JUST
IN TIME. MY DAUGHTER
WAS IN MORTAL
DANGER.

LUCKILY YOU SENT THE
TONGA FOR ME OR I WOULD
NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO COME.

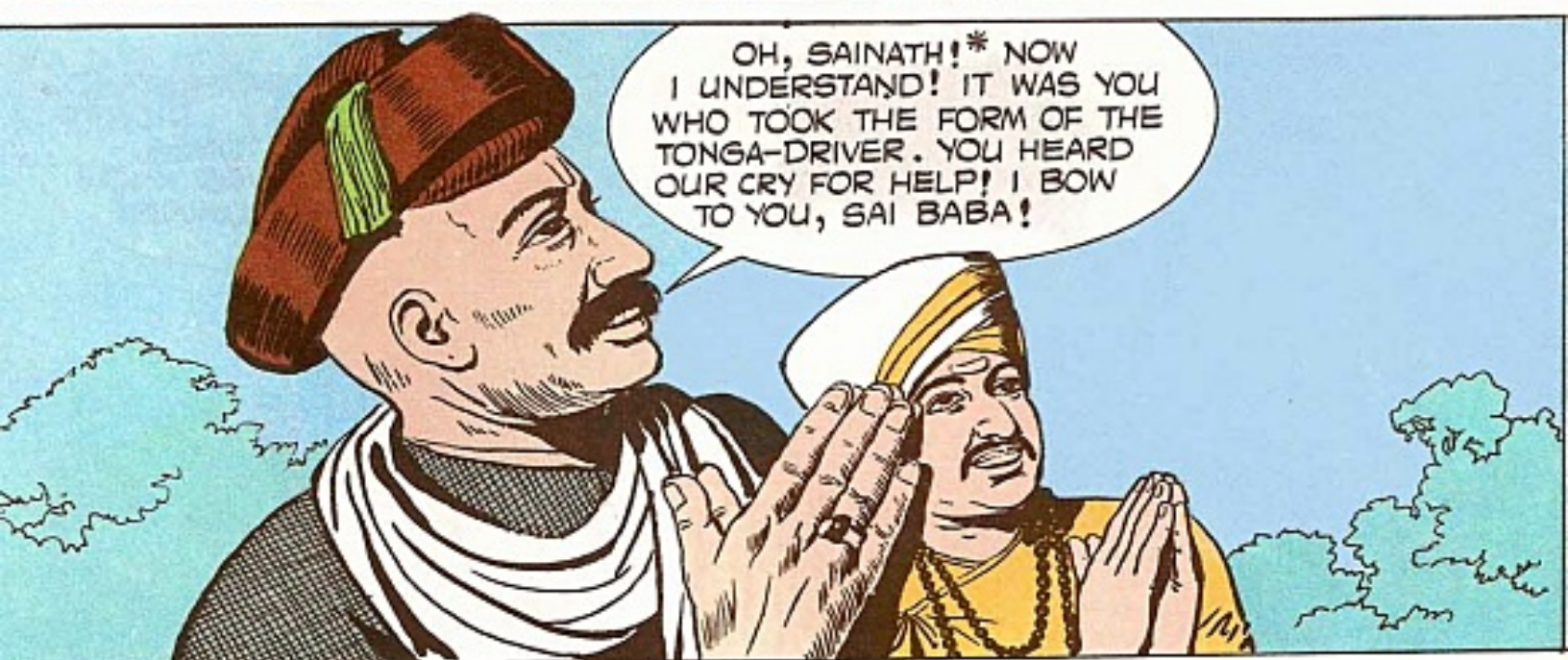


I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT TONGA? I DIDN'T
SEND ANY TONGA.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
YOU WERE COMING!

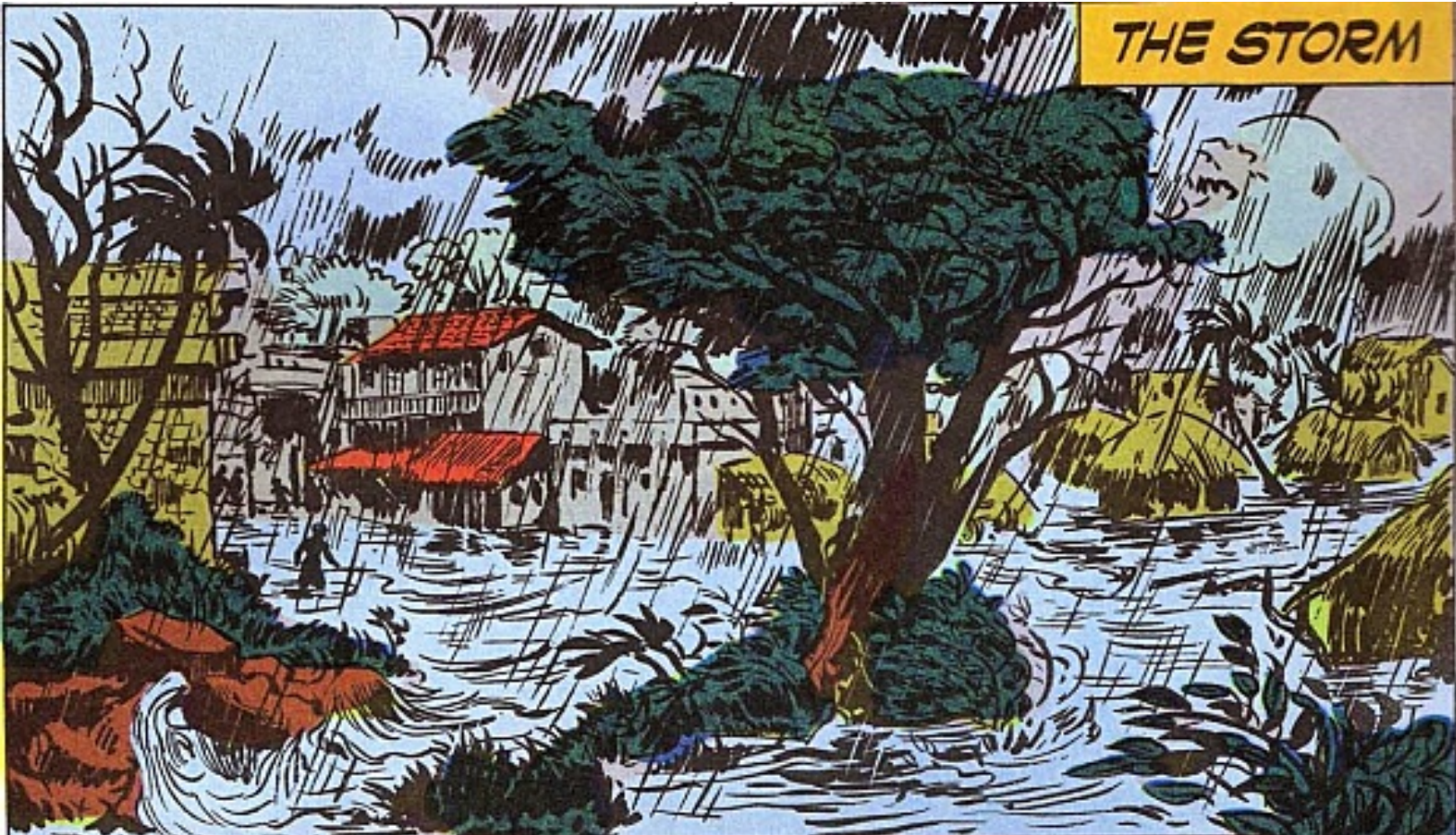




THEY BOTH RUSHED OUT OF THE HOUSE —



THE STORM



ONE EVENING, THERE WAS A TERRIBLE STORM AT SHIRDI. A STRONG WIND BLEW, LIGHTNING FLASHED, AND RAIN FELL IN TORRENTS.

PEOPLE RAN OUT OF THEIR HOUSES AS THE ROOFS CAME DOWN.



THEY HASTENED TO THE MOSQUE.

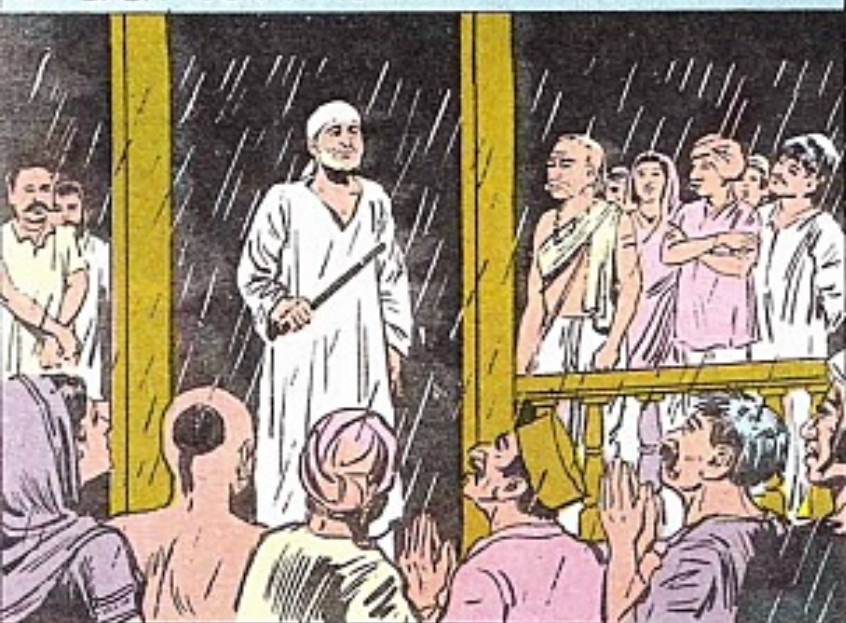


BABA, PLEASE
DO SOMETHING! OUR
HOUSES ARE BEING
WASHED AWAY.

THE STORM IS GETTING
WORSE. WE WILL ALL BE
DROWNED!



SAI BABA TOOK A ROD IN HIS HAND AND...



...STRUCK THE
PILLAR WITH IT.



STOP!
STOP YOUR FURY
AND BE CALM!

IMMEDIATELY THE RAIN STOPPED, THE STORM CEASED AND THE MOON SHONE BRIGHTLY
IN THE CLEAR SKY.



THE PROTECTIVE HAND



THOUGH SAI BABA NEVER LEFT THE MOSQUE, HE WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING EVEN IN FARAWAY PLACES. ONE AFTERNOON, INSTEAD OF PUTTING FIREWOOD INTO THE DHUNI, HE PUT HIS HAND INTO IT.

TWO DAYS LATER, A LETTER ARRIVED. A DEVOTEE READ IT OUT.



BABA, I SALUTE YOU. I AM A BLACKSMITH AND YOUR HUMBLE DEVOTEE. THIS MORNING...

"...MY WIFE WAS WORKING AT THE BELLONS ..."



"... WHEN I CALLED OUT TO HER."



COME HERE FOR A MINUTE.

"MY WIFE GOT UP SUDDENLY AND OUR CHILD, WHO WAS LYING ON HER LAP, SLIPPED ..."



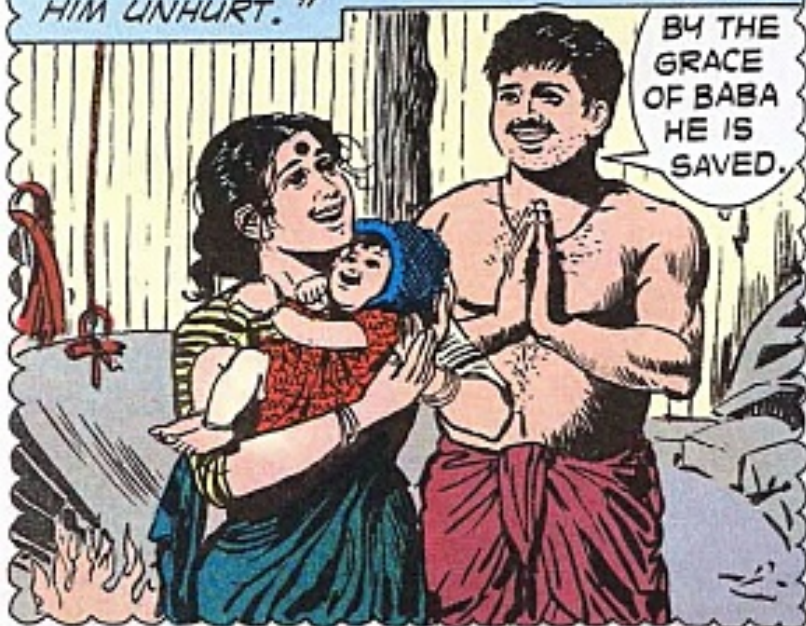
"...AND FELL INTO THE FLAMES."

BABA!
PROTECT
MY CHILD!



"WE PICKED UP THE CHILD AND FOUND
HIM UNHURT."

BY THE
GRACE
OF BABA
HE IS
SAVED.



BABA, WE KNOW
YOU PROTECTED
OUR CHILD. WE
SALUTE YOU.



THERE WAS SILENCE FOR A MINUTE, THEN AN OLD MAN SPOKE —

BABA. NOW WE KNOW WHY
YOU HAD THRUST YOUR
HAND INTO THE FIRE
THAT DAY!



THE OFFERING

BABA, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS HUMBLE OFFERING.

WHEN PEOPLE OFFERED FRUIT TO SAI BABA ...

... HE IMMEDIATELY DISTRIBUTED IT TO THE POOR.

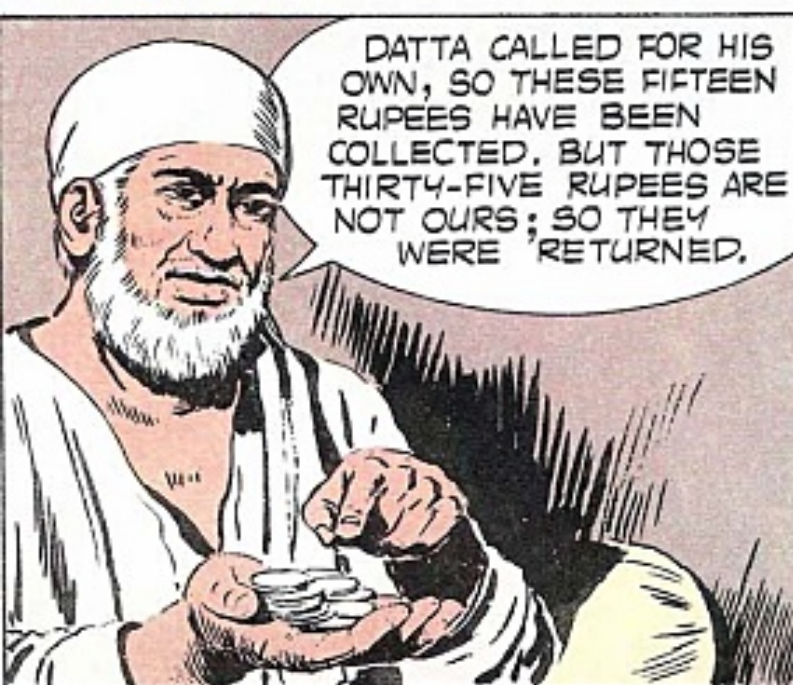
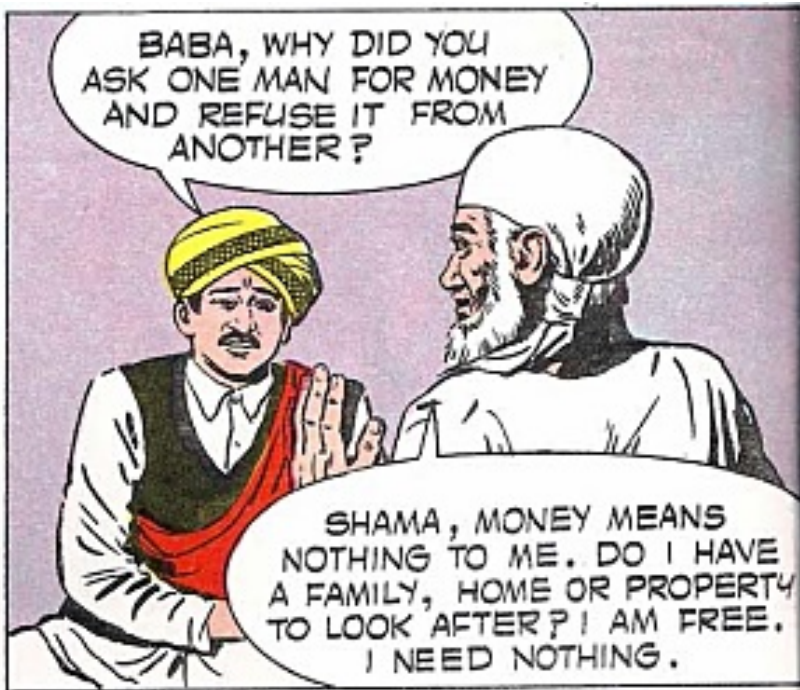
BUT THERE WERE TIMES WHEN BABA ASKED FOR MONEY AS AN OFFERING. THERE WAS ALWAYS A GOOD REASON FOR DOING THIS. ONE DAY TWO GENTLEMEN FROM GOA CAME TO SEE BABA.

GIVE ME FIFTEEN RUPEES.

HERE, BABA, HERE ARE FIFTEEN RUPEES.

BABA, PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONTRIBUTION, TOO.

BABA ACCEPTED THE MONEY FROM THE SECOND MAN, COUNTED IT AND RETURNED IT.



LATER, THE TWO MEN HAD LUNCH AT SHAMA'S HOUSE.



RAM AND RAHIM

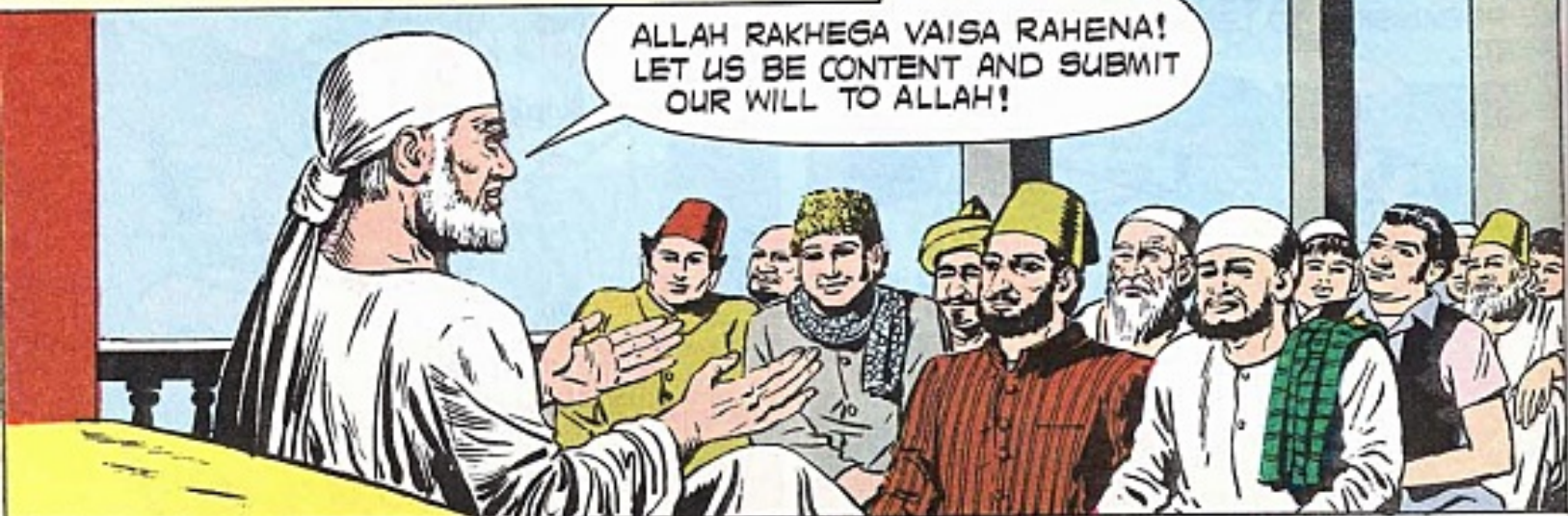
'PRANIPATA' MEANS COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE BODY, MIND AND WEALTH TO THE GURU.



SAI BABA SAID THAT HIS PARENTS WERE HINDUS. HE KEPT THE SACRED FIRE BURNING AND EXPLAINED CHAPTERS FROM THE BHAGAVAD-GITA AND OTHER HOLY BOOKS. HENCE THE HINDUS REGARDED HIM AS ONE OF THEM.

BUT HE DRESSED LIKE A MUSLIM FAKIR, AND HAD THE NAME OF ALLAH ALWAYS ON HIS LIPS. HE RECITED PERSIAN VERSES AND TAUGHT THE ESSENCE OF THE QURAN. SO THE MUSLIMS THOUGHT THAT HE WAS ONE OF THEM.

ALLAH RAKHEGA VAISA RAHENA!
LET US BE CONTENT AND SUBMIT
OUR WILL TO ALLAH!



ONE DAY A SMALL CHILD OF FOUR CAME TO BABA WITH SOME FLOWERS.

BABA, THEY WORSHIP
GOD IN THE TEMPLES
WITH FLOWERS.



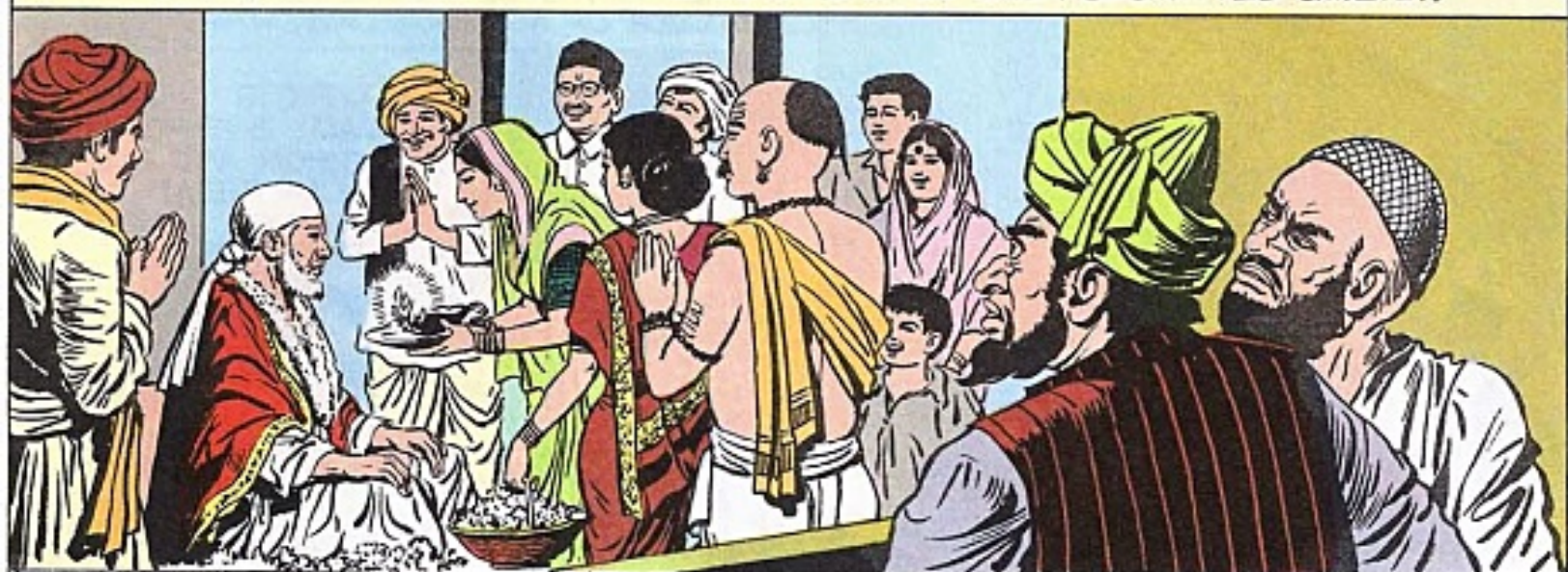
SEEING THE CHILD'S FAITH,
BABA'S HEART MELTED WITH
LOVE.

YOU ARE MY GOD.
PLEASE BLESS
ME!

HOW STRANGE!
BABA NEVER LETS
ANYONE WORSHIP
HIM LIKE
THIS.



AT THIS, A FEW HINDU DEVOTEES BECAME BOLD AND STARTED WORSHIPPING HIM. THEIR HEARTS, TOO, WERE FILLED WITH PURE DEVOTION. SO BABA SUBMITTED QUIETLY.

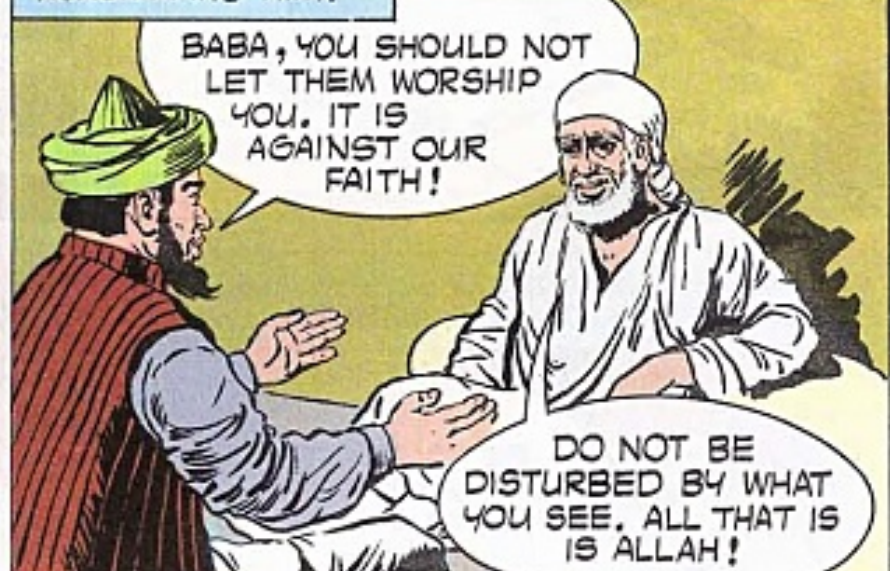


BUT A MUSLIM DEVOTEE WAS UPSET.



YA ALLAH!
WHAT NONSENSE
IS THIS? THIS IS
A MOSQUE NOT
A TEMPLE?

THIS DEVOTEE HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR BABA, BUT HE COULD NOT TOLERATE THE HINDUS WORSHIPPING HIM.



BABA, YOU SHOULD NOT
LET THEM WORSHIP
YOU. IT IS
AGAINST OUR
FAITH!

DO NOT BE
DISTURBED BY WHAT
YOU SEE. ALL THAT IS
IS ALLAH!

THE ANSWER ONLY ENRAGED HIM THE MORE. ONE DAY —

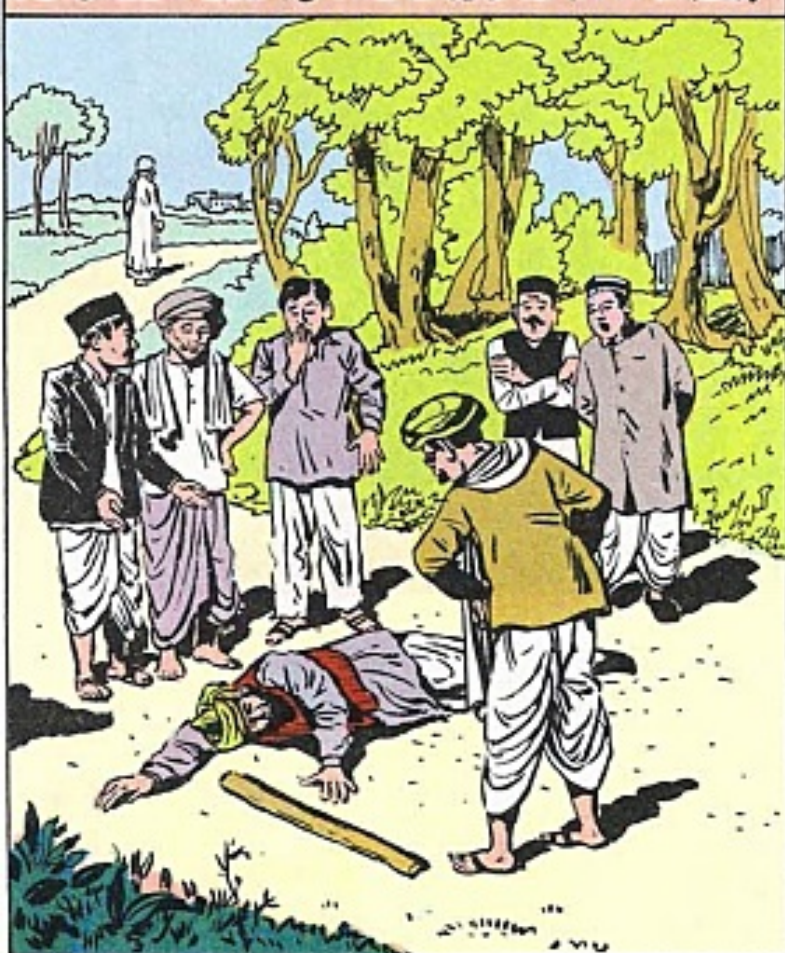


I SHALL STRIKE
HIM NOW!

JUST THEN, BABA TURNED
AND TOUCHED HIS LEFT
WRIST...



... AND UNDER BABA'S LOOK, THE DEVOTEE FELL TO THE GROUND IN A DAZE.



MIR JAMAN, ANOTHER MUSLIM FOLLOWER, ALSO PROTESTED AGAINST THE HINDU MANNER OF WORSHIP. ONE DAY—



BABA, THOSE HINDUS ARE MAD! GIVE YOUR PERMISSION AND I'LL SLAY THEM!

MIR, IT IS I WHO AM MAD, BECAUSE I LET THEM WORSHIP ME. SLAY ME FIRST!

AT THIS, MIR JAMAN QUIETLY PUT HIS SWORD BACK INTO ITS SCABBARD.



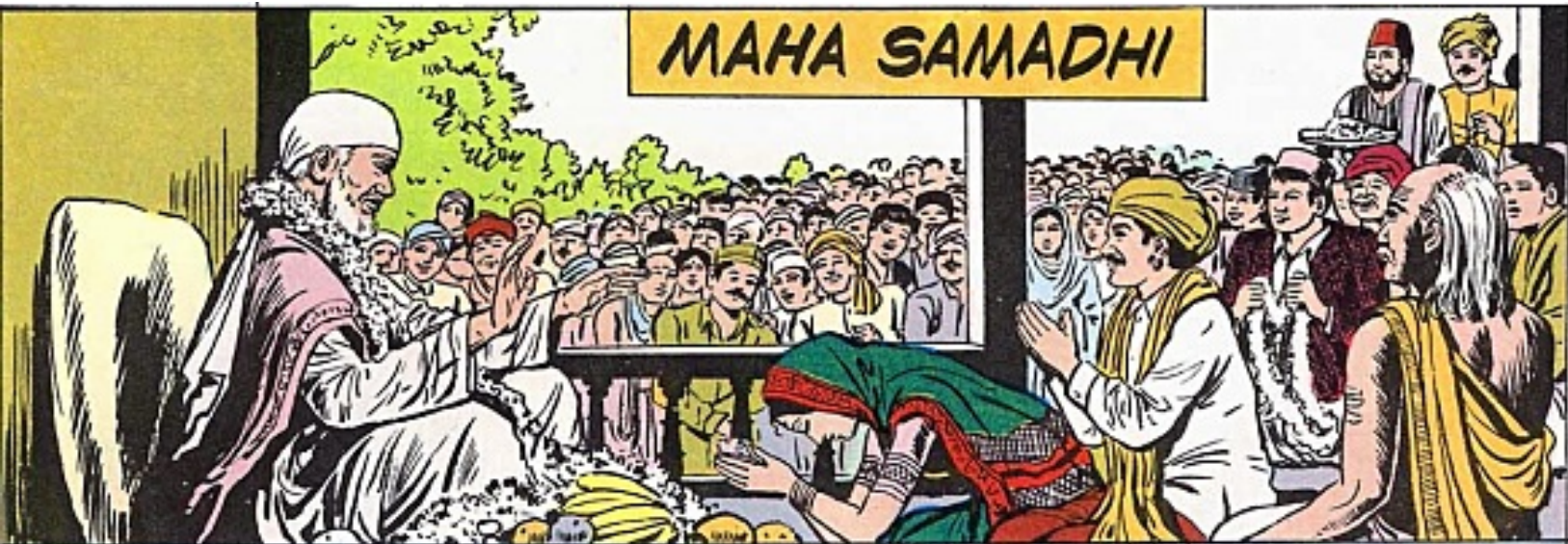
BE TOLERANT, MIR! HAVE FAITH IN ALLAH AND HE WILL BLESS YOU!

THUS DID BABA SUCCEED IN BRINGING UNITY BETWEEN HINDUS AND MUSLIMS. IN HIS PRESENCE THEY FORGOT THEIR DIFFERENCES OF CASTE AND CREED AND BECAME GOOD FRIENDS.



GOD IS ONE. THEY CALL HIM BY DIFFERENT NAMES. RAM AND RAHIM ARE ONE. SO DO NOT QUARREL. LOVE EACH OTHER. FOLLOW YOUR OWN RELIGION AND SEEK THE TRUTH.

MAHA SAMADHI



AS THE YEARS WENT BY, SAI BABA'S FAME SPREAD. MORE AND MORE DEVOTEES CAME TO SHIRDI. THE PEOPLE STARTED WORSHIPPING BABA LIKE GOD. HE ACCEPTED IT ALL...

... BUT CONTINUED TO BEG LIKE A POOR FAKIR TO THE END OF HIS LIFE.



ONE DAY, A MILLIONAIRE NAMED BOOTY CAME TO SAI BABA.

BABA, I WISH TO CONSTRUCT A STONE BUILDING WITH A CENTRAL HALL FOR SHRI KRISHNA. HERE IS THE PLAN.

YES, YES, BUILD IT! I WILL GO AND STAY THERE WHEN IT IS READY.



THE WORK STARTED.

WHEN THE BUILDING IS READY, WE SHALL USE IT OURSELVES!

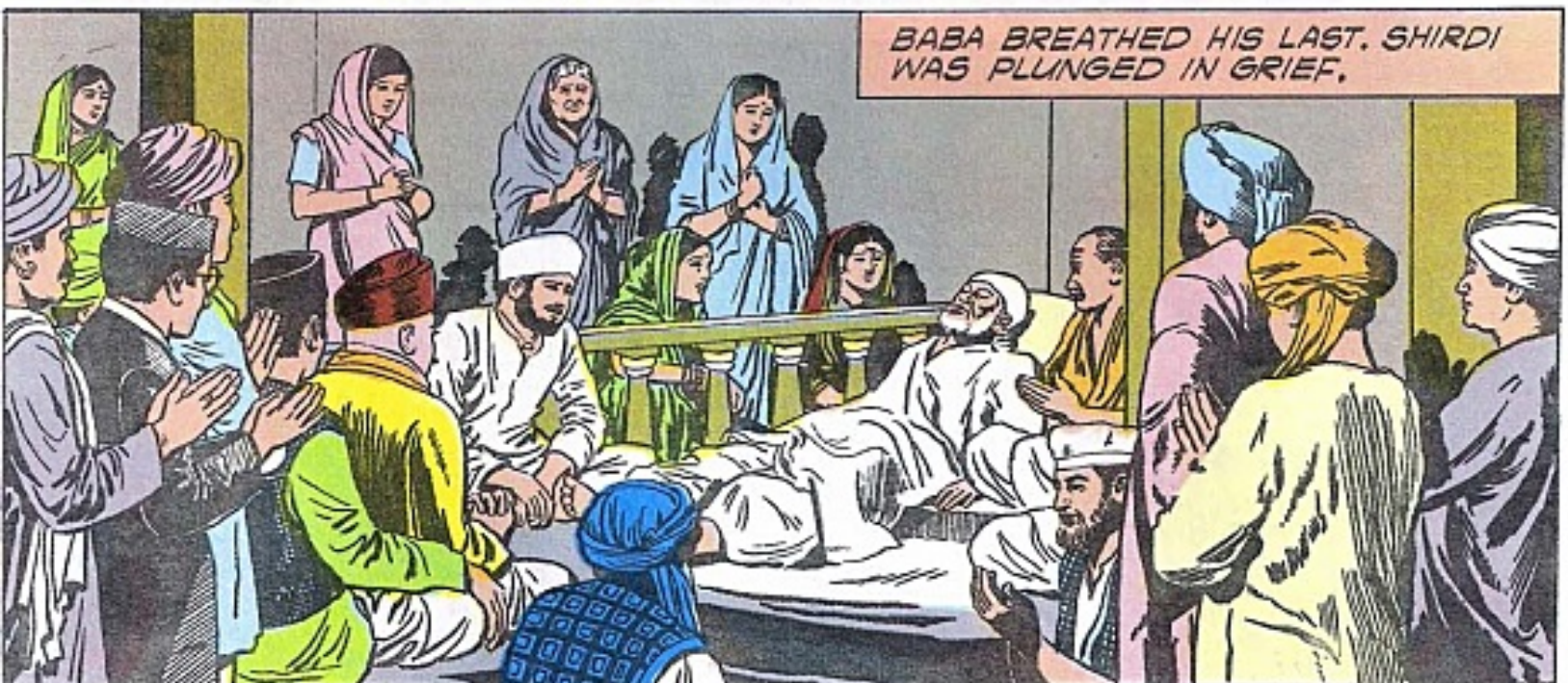
HOW LUCKY I AM THAT BABA IS PLANNING TO STAY HERE!



LITTLE DID BOOTY REALISE WHAT BABA HAD MEANT. BEFORE THE BUILDING WAS COMPLETED, BABA FELL VERY ILL. HE GREW WEAKER AND WEAKER. ON THE 15TH OF OCTOBER, 1918, HIS CONDITION BECAME CRITICAL. AT NOON, HE SENT MOST OF HIS DEVOTEES AWAY.

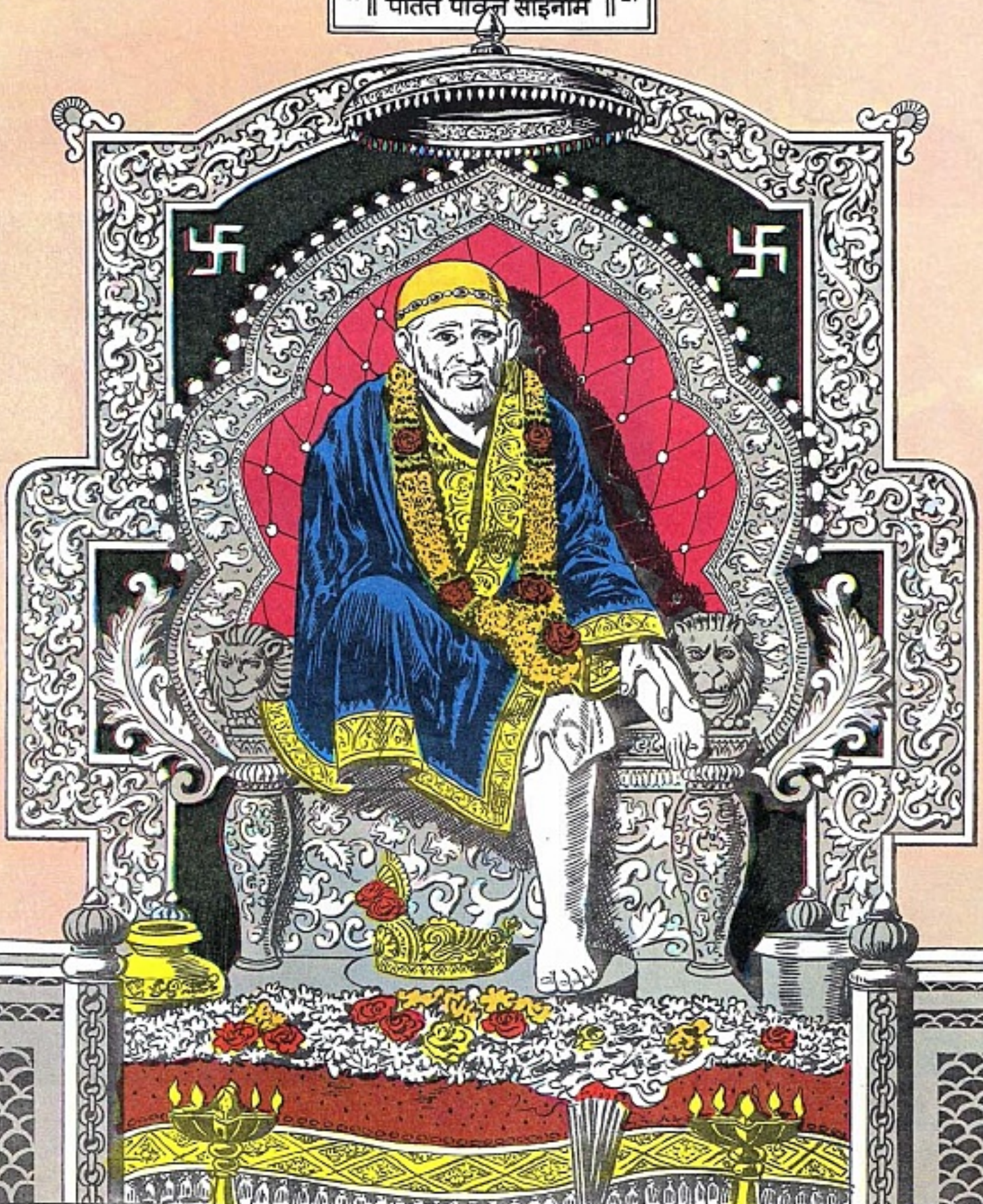


WITH HEAVY HEARTS, THE DEVOTEES LEFT. ONLY A FEW REMAINED. BABA TOOK OUT NINE RUPEE COINS FROM HIS POCKET AND GAVE THEM TO LAXMIBAI, ONE OF THE DEVOTEES.



BOOTH'S STONE BUILDING CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'SAMADHI-MANDIR'. SAI BABA WAS BURIED THERE AND A BEAUTIFUL SHRINE WAS BUILT OVER IT. TO THIS DAY, PEOPLE FLOCK TO SHIRDI TO PAY HOMAGE TO SAI BABA.

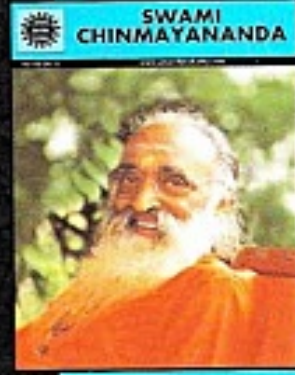
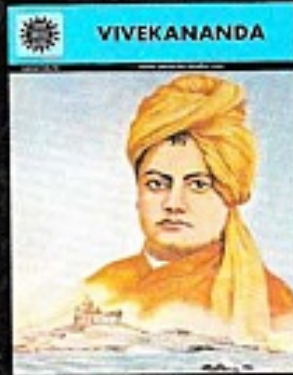
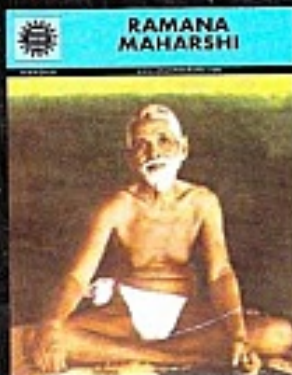
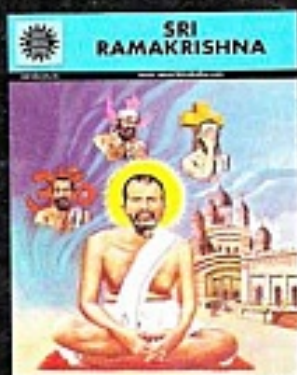
ॐ ॥ रघुपति राघव राजाराम ॥ ॐ
॥ पतित पावन साईनाम ॥



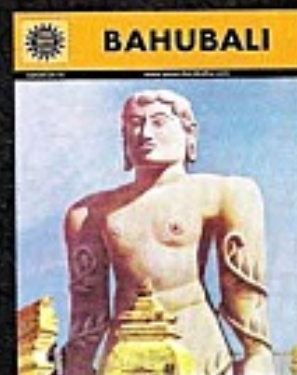
TALES OF SAI BABA

The pious flocked to Shirdi in Maharashtra. Sai Baba's all-encompassing love made them feel better, happier and more at peace. He could reveal himself as the Supreme Deity and yet assume the form of a street dog; he could turn water to oil and save a child far away from burning flames. However, by the time he left this world, in 1918, he had also made thousands understand that good acts are the only miracle needed to find God.

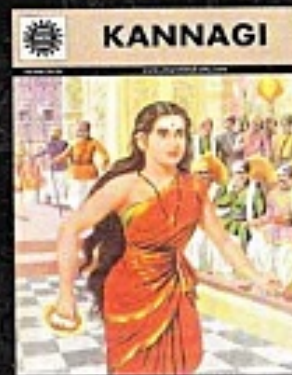
OTHER ACK VISIONARIES:



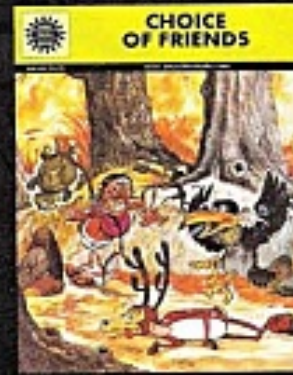
ALSO LOOK FOR:



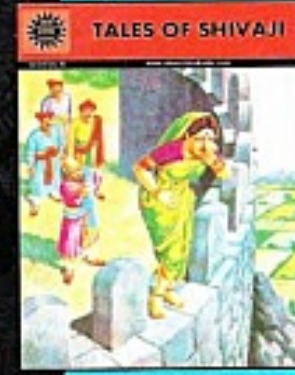
EPICS & MYTHOLOGY



INDIAN CLASSICS



FABLES & HUMOUR



BRAVEHEARTS

www.ack-media.com

ISBN 81-8482-039-9



9 788184 820393

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS